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Docket No. 4296-183 US

1623

PREPARED AND CERTIFIED THAT THIS COMMUNICATION IS BEING DEPOSITED WITH THE UNITED STATES POSTAL SERVICE AS PREPAID FIRST CLASS MAIL IN AN ENVELOPE ADDRESSED TO COMMISSIONER FOR PATENTS, P.O. BOX 1450, ALEXANDRIA, VA 22313-1450 ON JANUARY 11, 2008.

[Signature]
Diane Dunn McKay, Esq.

IN THE UNITED STATES PATENT AND TRADEMARK OFFICE

In re Application of	:	Customer No.
Juuro AOYAGI	:	26817
	:	
Serial No. 10/553,880	:	Group Art Unit: 1623
	:	
Filed: October 21, 2005	:	Examiner: Layla D. BLAND
	:	
Title: AGENT FOR PREVENTING AND	:	Confirmation No. 7856
HEALING CONSTIPATION	:	
	:	
	:	X

Commissioner for Patents
P.O. Box 1450
Alexandria, VA 22313-1450

RESPONSE TO RESTRICTION REQUIREMENT

Sir:

In a December 11, 2007 Office Action, the Examiner required restriction to one of the following groups:

- I. Claim(s) 1-10, drawn to an agent containing a hydrogel of a polyvalent metal salt of alginic acid.
- II. Claim(s) 11-14, drawn to a method for the production of an agent containing a hydrogel of a polyvalent metal salt of alginic acid.


Applicants hereby elect without traverse Group I, 1-10, drawn to an agent containing a hydrogel of a polyvalent metal salt of alginic acid for prosecution in this application. Applicants

submit that a search of the agent of Group I would uncover the method of Group II. Applicants respectfully request the right to file a divisional application directed to the unelected claims.

A prompt action on the merits is earnestly solicited. The Examiner is invited to telephone the undersigned should he believe this would expedite prosecution of this application. It is believed no fee is required. The Commissioner is authorized to charge any deficiency or credit any overpayment to Deposit Account No. 13-2165.

Respectfully submitted,

Dated: January 11, 2008



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